

Appl. No. 10/618,258
Amdt. Dated September 20, 2005
Reply to final Office Action of June 7, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 81788.0252
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS:

This request for continued examination is filed in response to the final Office Action dated June 7, 2005. Claims 1-4, 10 and 32-35 are under consideration. Claim 9 was previously canceled and claim 35 is added by this amendment. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 is amended to recite the presence of "a discharging circuit to discharge a voltage generated across the series circuit when emission of light from the light-emitting circuit is brought to a halt." The newly recited "discharging circuit" is illustrated, for example, at number 7 of the FIG. 6 drawing and is described in the application at pages 6 and 8 of the application, among other places.

The prior art cited against the claims in the final Office Action included the art illustrated FIGS. 12 and 13 of the application taken in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,734,703 to Hiyoshi further taken in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,614,873 to Umeji. The art illustrated in FIGS. 12 and 13 of this application does not describe a discharging circuit that discharges a voltage generated across the series circuit and so does not teach the "discharging circuit" limitation of claim 1. The Hiyoshi patent describes a modem and the Umeji patent describes an opto-isolator and so do not address this deficiency of the art of FIGS. 12 and 13. Consequently, claim 1 and all of its dependent claims distinguish over the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los

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Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: September 20, 2005

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